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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 16-21, 23-29, 31-33, 37-42, 46-65 and 68-78 are pending.
2. Applicant's arguments, see page 20, filed April 22, 2009, with respect to claims 41, 46, 49-50 and 63 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 41, 46, 49-50 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat No 6,015,555 (newly cited filed May 19, 1995; PTO 892) has been withdrawn. Specifically, the '555 patent fails to teach the following blocks of amino acids at the stated positions 220S and 331S despite the reference sequence has 98.6% identity to the claimed SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. The rejection of claims 41, 47-48, 57, 59-62 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 6,015,555 (newly cited filed May 19, 1995; PTO 892) in view of Griffin et al (of record, Blood 86: 4430, Dec 1995; PTO 892) has been obviated because the primary US Pat No 6,015,555 fails to teach the blocks of amino acids at the stated positions 220S and 331S despite the reference sequence has 98.6% identity to the claimed SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. The rejection of claims 48 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 6,015,555 (newly cited filed May 19, 1995; PTO 892) in view of Griffin et al (of record, Blood 86: 4430, Dec 1995; PTO 892) as applied to claims 41, 47-48, 57, 59-62 and 70 mentioned above and further in view of US Pat 5,846,534 (newly cited, Filed April 29, 1995; PTO 892) has been obviated because the primary US Pat No 6,015,555 fails to teach the blocks of amino acids at the stated positions 220S and 331S despite the reference sequence has 98.6% identity to the claimed SEQ ID NO: 1.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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6. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mary J Wilson on May 18, 2009
7. **In the claims:**
 - Claim 31 been canceled.
 - Claim 21, line 24, -- , -- has been inserted after "Figure 17"
 - Claim 42, lines 19-20, "is at least 98% identical to G1 Δ ab (SEQ ID NO: 1) or G2 Δ a (SEQ ID NO: 2) as shown in Figure 17," has been deleted.
 - Claim 55, line 24, -- , -- has been inserted after "Figure 17"
 - Claim 59, line 1, "to inhibit" has been changed to -- wherein the binding molecule inhibits --
8. Claims 16-21, 23-29, 32-33, 37-42, 46-65 and 68-78 are allowed.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong Huynh "NEON" whose telephone number is (571) 272-0846. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:30 p.m. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on (571) 272-0735. The IFW official Fax number is (703) 872-9306.
10. Any information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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/Phuong Huynh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644

May 20, 2009